An Essay

on the evils of excessive and indulgence in Venery.

Is respectfully submitted

to the

Homoeopathic Medical College

of Pennsylvania

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eight hundred and forty nine

For the

Degree of Doctor of Homoeopathic Medicine

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of

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N.Y.

Effects of Venereal excesses

The evils arising from excessive indulgence in Masturbation and venereal pleasures are very extensive.

The symptoms by which this desease may be detected (for such I shall call it) is not taught in the medical Colleges, and the books published on the subject are but few.

As far as I am acquainted with the Medical profession, their are but few who can detect those deseases, kept up or called into being from this vicious habit.

To prove the evils growing out of this habit you will allow me to introduce such evidence as in my judgement establishes the fact, that all deseases may be aggravated from excessive indulgence in the venereal pleasure, and that many deseases, the Physician is called for to treat are produced by this habit alone.

The influence which the general state of the functions has at different ages, and which the peculiar state of some of them, at different periods of life may have on the consequences of the act of venery.

Life is composed of three very distinct periods. In the first the body is developed and formed, it is a period of progress, while it continues the organs gain in force & substance, it terminates when they have arrived at their greatest degree of perfection, and this generally takes place about the 25th year.

During the second period man uses the organs as they are formed and constituted.

This is the period of maturity, it generally terminates about the 60 year.

The third period is the period of decline.

Thus a state of development, that of maturity and that of decline, are the three aspects under

which life presents itself.

The first period of life is marked by two facts of the highest importance. It is that the organs form, that they become perfect in substance, extent and texture.

The Spermatozoa is not seen in the male until the 14th or 16th years. At this epoch, which is ordinarily designated as that of Puberty, a considerable change takes place in the bodily constitution: the sexual organs undergo a much increased development, various parts of the surface especially the chin and the pubes become covered with hair, the larynx enlarges and the voice becomes lower in pitch, as well as rarer and more powerful; and new feelings and desires are awakened in the mind.

(Wilson Phys. P. 690.) The changes that take place in the human female at the

age of Puberty are increase in size of the breast, appearance of hair on the mons veneris and menstruation. This change takes place in our own climate between the age of 13 or 15 years. Hallen states that in the warm regions of Asia, the catamenia appears from 8 to 10 years, and in Switzerland, Britain and other temporate regions at the age of 12 or 13, and later the farther we ascend towards the north.

The symptoms of venereal excesses are so analogous to those of involuntary pollutions, that it is impossible to point out any difference between them; that the general effects of these pollutions, whether voluntary or involuntary are also extremely analogous to those caused by the slow destruction of an organ; those for instance observed in phthisis pulmonalis, cancer of the uterus, profuse suppurations, chronic diarrhoea etc. Then then the

results of masturbation and of coition and the same as those of involuntary seminal emissions, which is a disease of the Genital Organs and of those of other severe maladies, affecting different parts. — One of the most constant effects of excessive masturbation is the loss of flesh. The loss of flesh arising from Spermatorrhœa has not unfrequently been attributed to a too rapid growth and vice versa.

This symptom is much more striking in some onanists as it is attended with excessive appetite and a healthy state of the digestive organs. How great must be the influence of the Genital Organs when abused, on the nutritive process, to cause the loss of flesh under the conditions most favorable for its gain.

Many parts as the loins, thighs and lower extremities are often remarkable for their extreme emaciation

Sainte Marie who has observed this fact attributes it and also the debility of these parts to a morbid state of the spinal marrow and not unjustly

The loss of strength generally follows the loss of flesh, and returns with it when the habit is suspended. At first debility only follows the act temporally but afterwards it continues longer; new emissions of semen take place, and even before the subject of them has regained the strength exhausted by a previous indulgence. On the morning he rises from his bed with difficulty; during the day he is idle, stupid and indolent and pursues his avocations without any spirit.

This debility if the cause which produces it does not cease to act, may increase to a frightful degree.

There are not the only symptoms which

show themselves as the constitution gradually sinks under this habit. Many signs indicate that all of the functions are affected as it were with a loss of strength.

The countenance instead of the vermillion glow of health, is pale and without freshness, or of a yellowish, earthy, leaden and livid taint; the lips lose their color, a bluish circle surrounds the eyes, the eyelids are often puffed out with edema.

When young men begin to masturbate the action of the stomach is increased for a time and digestion more rapid. Such a state of things cannot long continue; the appetite soon begins to diminish and often disappears, many onanists feel pain and oppression in the epigastric region.

In some there is a gnawing feeling resembling that produced by wants of food

this symptom is very common in gents, who in consequence of secret practices have become affected with leucorrhoea.

In some the face and cheek presents a redness which contrasts remarkably with their habitual paleness. Spanæmia and frequently affected with headache, vertigo, flushed face etc.

In many patients the intestinal canal is more liable to be affected by venereal excesses than the stomach.

Obstinate constipation in some diarrhoea and borborygmus with colic.

The pleasures experienced in the venereal act depend upon the excited condition of the nervous system. All parts of the genital system are interested and combine their actions, The testes prepare the semen, the excretory duct convey it, the prostate and the mucus follicles secrete their mucus

The erectile tissue, which forms the prince of the glands, the cavernous bodies, the clitoris and Bouvereaus glands solicits and retain a large quantity of blood. At the same time the genital sense passes rapidly through all the degrees of excitement which is soon followed by great lassitude.
At the same time the nervous centers the cerebrum, the cerebellum, the spinal marrow all have received a powerful impression, as we shall see by the stupidity which follows.
The face has lost its color, the limbs are quite motionless, the head is often painful, the mind is slow to act, the hearing is dull, the sight is deranged, the pulse of the heart is feeble, and the soul is left in a state of languor and sadness, it becomes, as it were, melancholy.
From the remarks on the influence exercised by the genital organs on the nervous system,

it will not be supposed, if we should state, that in this system are seen the affections resulting most frequently from the abuse of these organs.

The loss of motion and the decline of the intellectual faculties are among the most prominent of the symptoms, which show most clearly that the anterior portion of the spine, from which every organ in the body derives its nerves of motion, without which death is inevitable from paralysis of the several organs of the body.

How often do we see in those who have thus indulged, a constant dropping away of the mind, flaccidity of the penis, relaxation of the scrotum and wasting away of the testes, with sterility. Paralysis of the upper & lower extremities, in short the entire viscera and those situated in the abdominal cavity in particular.

On the other hand the nerves of sensation or those arising from the posterior portion of the spine may be said, of assuming the reverse condition, to those of motion. That is to say they have acquired an increased degree of sensibleness of the system to cold or change of weather. The sense of hearing often a time is very acute; the eyes are irritated by strong light; the patient is apt, to see strange things hear strange noises, which is apt to frighten them very much.

In those whose nervous systems have become much impaired from venereal diseases the most thoughts of the act, the slightest irritation of the parts, or when dreaming of the opposite sex, and many times without the slightest consciousness, or even an erection the seminal fluid may be ejaculated, without the patient knowing it, only from the great

debility and lassitude, which are sure to follow this discharge. This will only occur in those persons whose nervous system is much impaired by venereal pleasures.

In proof of the two opposite conditions of the nervous system, I will proceed to give a few cases to illustrate or prove the assertion to be true, and show that every organ in the system may be deranged from excessive indulgence in venery, but that some organs will suffer more than others as a matter of necessity.

Orfila mentions among the occasional causes of suicide, the physical and moral disgust, intellectual apathy without any hope of cure, caused by premature indulgence.

Spermatorrhœa often produces a very marked debility of the mental faculties and particularly of the memory. Young men, who previously

showed considerable vivacity of mind and aptitude for study, become after being addicted to this habit stupified and incapable of applying themselves to study.

It is evident that this transitory state which immediately succeeds the act of venery, becomes continued when this act is frequently repeated because time is not allowed for the effects of it to pass off. This debility of the intellectual faculties must not always be considered as incurable, for when the habit which had enfeebled them is discontinued, before the desecration is of to long standing.

We might add instances of its recovery. The most remarkable is that of a Jewish girl who was restored to reason by amputating the clitoris, an operation performed by Doctor Graefe of Berlin. The debility of the intellectual faculties do not always stop.

at the point indicated, it may extend almost to idiocy — to the most complete stupidity. Most generally then, the brain or its appendages are deeply injured, which is indicated by different symptoms, as the loss of sight and hearing, fits paralysis &c.

This was the case with an individual, whose case is stated by Esquirol, and who became through anamism perfectly imbecile.

This is true, of an idiot, who was under the charge of Pinel in the infirmary of Bicetre. He was a deceptor, who had previously been exhausted by intemperance and penery. He remained almost motionless and quiet, or at intervals indulged in a foolish laugh. His face was destitute of expression and he had no remembrance of his former state. His appetite was always good, and even at the sight of food his jaws began to move. He constantly remained in a recumbent posture

and finally became affected with hectic fever which terminates fatally.

It is worthy of remark, in those amaurosis who become idiots, that while the external senses and intelligence diminish the general activity is increased; all these faculties seem to be blended into one, the proportions of which seem much greater as the others are diminished.

The opposite state of things, found in all cases produced by Onanism is particularly remarkable in a case observed at the Hospital St Louis by Albert. The patient was a peasant girl 22 years old, who was constantly employed in tending sheep. The seclusion of this girl's situation favoured the development of onanism. She concealed herself in ridges and grassy situations, to indulge this horrid inclination. Two years elapsed during which her intellectual faculties were progressively enfeebled, she became stupid, while

the venereal sense was excited to the highest degree. Things came to such an extent, that she fell, as it were into a species of nymphomania, for which she was carried to the hospital. The unfortunate girl presented a kind of automic motions, which she could not repress. Her head, chest and upper half of the body were excessively thin, while the other half was remarkably plump. The sight and much more the contact of the male, caused in her a state which was soon terminated by a pollution. By merely touching this girl, her whole person would by agitated and convulsed to a distressing degree, and it was thought expedient to send her home. (Beck's Med. Jur. V. 37. P. 582)

The word pollution cannot apply to the female, this may be accounted for, as it was formerly supposed that the female discharged a seminal fluid, similar to that of the male, when those

organs present a state of excitement; more recent investigations have proved this, which the older writers called semen, to be nothing more than mucous, secreted by the mucous follicles, situated in the mucous membrane lining the vagina, and it is well established that Duverney's Glands situated at either side of the vagina, beneath the integuments covering the inferior part of the vagina, as well as the superficial perinæal fascia and the constrictor vaginæ muscle. ?

The space they occupy lies between the lower end of the vagina, the ascending ramus of the ischium, the crus clitoridis and the erector clitoridis muscle. They are flat and heart shaped, their long diameter is found 5 to 10 lines, their transverse diameter 2½ to 4½ lines and they are found 2½ to 3 lines thick. The excretory duct arises from the superior of the gland, and runs beneath the constrictor

vaginae, forwards to the inner face of the nymphae opening in front of the carunculae myrtiformes in the midst of a number of small mucous follicles. They secrete a thick, tenacious grayish white fluid which is emitted in large quantities at the termination of the sexual act.

This & glands were probably known to the ancients and it is doubtless their secretion which Hippocrates and others describe as the female semen (Carpt. Phys. P. 696. note)

It is quite likely that the glandular secretion as above described contributes much to impair the health of the female, when they are unduly excited which causes them to give out a large quantity of mucous, if such it be, what Duverney's Glands secrete.

The highly excited condition of the nervous system, which takes place during the venereal acts is what produces the majority of diseases

in the female sex, from too frequent indulgence
This then goes to show, that debility may
follow excitement of the Genital organs in
the female, where there is no discharge of semen
The same debility takes place in the male after
having indulged in the venereal pleasure for a
long time, the organs become exhausted, and
cease to secrete semen as in old men, but if
the venereal sensation can be excited, without
the emission of semen it is followed with nearly
the same debility as the loss of semen.
(May not Leucorrhoea, flour albus depend
upon a diseased condition of Duverney's glands)?

Consumption or Phthisis tuberculaire is in fact one of the disease caused most frequently by onanism. The act of misery that power which has so much influence on the internal life of the tissues, and on the respiratory organs and which to use Rullers expression, seems to agglutinate the lungs is commenced in most onanist exactly at that age, when the chest enlarges in every direction and when phthisis seems to prosper.

How many young persons says Parent in his work on phthisis pulmonalis have been victims to their unhappy passions? Physicians find those every day, who are imbecile.

In another work, the same author relates the case of a young man 17 years old, who was addicted to masturbation, and who fell a victim to this disease, he had haemorrhage from the lungs and soon died of phthisis

Fournier and Bayard say that it is a well established fact, that persons who indulge in onanism, are generally remarkable for the imperfect development of their thorax.
The same authour mentions two cases of nymphomania arising from ?
1, A young woman who's constitution was much impaired, when her habit was discovered. She was cured by tying her hands at night nothing but the entreaties of her father could restrain her from this habit.
2, A girl 8 years old neither caresses, intreaties, threats nor punishments could correct her, at the period of the crisis she seemed almost to have lost her sight and hearing. Threats and punishments restrained her from this habit, when in the presence of her parents. She grew up was married, became pregnant and died in labour (Dict des Sc Med Vol 37. P. 536)

Having an opportunity to observe a young lady who was in the habit of using artificial means to excite the venereal pleasure, I observed a remarkable high colour of the lips in the morning When she was approached by the male and more particularly when touched by him, the thighs were pressed together, the colour of the lips and cheeks was very much increased, which would last from 10. 30 minutes

Several years ago when a clerk, I remember to have observed the same change of countenance take place in a young lady, as above described, when selling her some goods. She discharged mucous from the vagina, which was seen on the floor after she left. From the similarity of the symptoms between the two persons, I have not the least doubt but what their habits were similar. Both ladies were highly respectable, but were ignorantly destroying their health, if they did not

bowels their characters mark it.

Mr Thurmond called to have me prescribe for him, he had been out of health 15 years had been treated allopathically without improvement. He was now and had been laboring under Laryngeal Phthisis for 12 years. Slight cough, with expectoration of pus, shooting pain through the upper part of the chest, in the larynx and under the sternum the pain was more constant and increased by pressure, had ozena, chronic tonsilitis, diarrhoea alternating with constipation. I prescribed several remedies for him with but improvement. I observed that his disease was aggravated every 3 or 5 days I suspected this aggravation depended upon venereal indulgence; on inquiry I was satisfied that this was the cause, as the patient told me that his left testicle was much smaller than natural, it was one half the natural size, hard to the touch.

Sexual intercourse was prescribed, gave Aur 12
one dose; in 4 days the patient was much
improved in strength and spirits, gave hiter. ac.
1 Drop 15. The symptoms were aggravated for
3 days. On 4 weeks the cough and ulceration
of larynx was cured, the bowels regular.
Strength so much increased, that the patient
could walk one mile, without much fatigue.
The patient was now allowed to gratify his desires
and in a few days many of his former symptoms
returned with great debility; China was given
in repeated dose's followed by hiter. acid, which
so much improved his health, that he was able
to act as clerk in a store. The longer he went
without indulging with his wife the more
rapid the improvement, allowing from 3 to 4
weeks to intervene between each sexual
congress, this patient was soon restored to health.
His wife's health was much impaired by the

same causes. She had falling off the womb, painful menses, constant leucorrhoea, which was always aggravated by coition.

Dr B. Wished me to see a patient with him who complained as follows: Great debility, flying pain in every part of the body in damp weather. Ozena, laryngeal phthisis, loss of appetite, chronic dyspepsia, subject to colic, costiveness piles, enuresis, intellectual faculties much impaired. As the patient had been complaining of dyspepsia and costiveness, several years previous to the appearance of the above named diseases. My friend B announced him to be labouring under dyspepsia complicated with laryngeal phthisis, he thought it a hard case for Allaeopathy to cure, and wished me to try Homoeopathic medicines on his patient. I told the Doctor that his patient was out of the reach of medicines, and that he had brought on this complication of disease

by masturbation, therefore his case was a hopeless one, his reply was, that he had known this man from his boyhood and that his father had always been his attending physician, therefore he could not believe what I stated to be true.

Dr. B questioned his patient more closely, and to his great surprise, the patient had indulged in masturbation to that extent that for three years he had not been able to produce erection, but would often have a seminal emission at night, which was followed by great prostration.

The probability is that the discharge was nothing but prostatic fluid mixed with mucous.

If it were expedient I could give many more cases, but I have chosen to rely upon the authority of those who have had ample experience in the practice of medicine and have made extensive

observations as to the deleterious effects produced in the animal economy, from excessive indulgence in Venereal pleasures.

Therefore I would respectfully submit this subject to the consideration of the Professors in the Homoeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania.

I beg to subscribe myself

Yours very Truly

S. D. Scudder